

CLAIMS

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1. Dispensing device of portable terminals for acquiring product data in a shopping centre, comprising:
- a plurality of static cradles for a corresponding
- 5 plurality of portable terminals adapted to be withdrawn and used by the customers of a shopping centre for acquiring product data;
- means for identifying each customer enabled to the use of the portable terminals;
- 10 - means for communicating to each identified customer a terminal to be withdrawn for carrying out the product data acquisition;
- a data control and processing unit adapted to control the above identification and communication means of/to the
- 15 customer and to process the product data acquired through said terminals;
- characterised in that said plurality of cradles, said identification and communication means of/to the customer and said control unit are housed into a single container,
- 20 and in that said plurality of cradles is housed into a substantially flat portion of said container provided in close proximity of the customer identification means so as to allow them to immediately and easily access to said plurality of terminals.
- 25 2. Dispensing device according to claim 1, wherein said terminal housing portion is substantially horizontal.
- a 3. Dispensing device according to claim 1 ~~or 2~~, wherein said terminal housing portion comprises a box-shaped body including a plurality of compartments constituting said
- 30 plurality of terminal cradles.
4. Dispensing device according to claim 3, wherein each compartment of said plurality of compartments is adapted to house a terminal of said plurality of terminals and comprises locking/unlocking means of the terminal housed
- 35 therein.

5/ 5. Dispensing device according to claim 3 ~~or 4~~, wherein said box-shaped body comprises first electrical connectors adapted to co-operate with second electrical connectors provided on the terminals.

a 5 6. Dispensing device according to ^{claim 3} ~~any one of claims from 3 to 5~~, wherein each compartment of said plurality of compartments comprises:

- a first upper aperture for inserting the terminal, wherein a vertical axis and a terminal insertion axis
- 10 inclined by a predetermined angle with respect to the vertical axis are defined;
- a second lower service aperture below the first aperture for inserting the terminal;
- guiding means of the terminal into the compartment.

15 7. Dispensing device according to claim 6, wherein said second aperture has a size larger than that of said first aperture.

a 20 8. Dispensing device according to claim 6 ~~or 7~~, wherein each compartment of said plurality of compartments comprises a terminal support element arranged outside the projection of the first aperture along the vertical axis.

25 9. Dispensing device according to claim 8, wherein said terminal support element comprises opposed guiding walls inclined by said predetermined angle with respect to said vertical axis, and wherein one of said walls comprises a support step for a lower end of the terminal, arranged outside the projection of the first aperture along the vertical axis.

a 30 10. Dispensing device according to ^{claim 6} ~~any one of claims from 6 to 9~~, wherein said box-shaped body comprises a covering surface provided with a plurality of holes at said first terminal insertion apertures.

a 11. Dispensing device according to ^{claim 1} ~~any one of the previous claims~~, wherein said container comprises means for moving

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claim 1

claim

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claim 1

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claim

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claim V

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claim 3

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claim 1

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18. Dispensing device according to ^{any} ~~any one of the previous~~
~~claims~~, wherein said container comprises means for printing

19. Integrated system for the automatic dispensing of portable terminals for acquiring product data in a shopping centre, characterised in that it comprises:

20. System according to claim 19, wherein said at least one terminal dispensing device is a dispensing device according to any one of claims from 1 to 18.

22. System according to claim 21, wherein said connection network is a wireless local network.

23. System according to claim 21, wherein said connection network is a geographic network.

24. Integrated system for selling products in a shopping centre through the use of portable terminals, characterised in that it comprises:

~~claim 19~~ an integrated system for dispensing terminals according to any one of claims from 19 to 23;

- means for downloading the products data acquired through the terminals;
- means for computing, as a function of the acquired data, an amount to be paid.

25. System according to claim 24, wherein said means for downloading the product data acquired through the terminals

Sub B²⁴ are housed in the terminal dispensing device.

26. System according to claim 24, wherein said means for downloading the product data acquired through the terminals are provided in remote position with respect to the terminal dispensing device.

claim 24

27. System according to ~~any one of claims from 24 to 26~~, further comprising at least one cash register for the payment of said amount.

claim 24

28. System according to ~~any one of claims from 24 to 27~~, further comprising means for charging the amount to be paid directly on the customer's bank account.

claim 24

29. System according to ~~any one of claims from 24 to 28~~, wherein at least a portion of the terminals used for acquiring the product data is dispensed to the customers for personal use.

claim 24

30. System according to ~~any one of claims from 24 to 28~~, wherein at least a portion of the terminals used for acquiring the product data belongs to the customers.

claim 29

31. System according to ~~any one of claims 29 or 30~~, further comprising means for allowing the automatic identification of the customers through said terminals.

claim 29

32. System according to ~~any one of claims from 29 to 31~~, wherein said at least one portion of terminals is arranged for exchanging information with the control unit through a wireless connection network.

claim 29

33. System according to ~~any one of claims from 29 to 32~~, wherein said at least one portion of terminals is arranged for receiving visual and/or voice marketing and/or promotional information and/or discount vouchers.

claim 28

34. System according to ~~claims 28 and 29~~, wherein said means for charging the amount to be paid directly on the customer's bank account is controlled through a terminal of

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